

# Northampton Half Marathon



22nd September 2013



**On a gloriously sunny day,** Northampton MP Michael Ellis got the inaugural Northampton Half Marathon underway.

500 runners were on the start for a run that initially took in the town centre landmarks including the Market Square, Cenotaph, the Guild Hall and then on passed the Museum and Theatre before heading down to the river for a course that included Brackmills and the villages of Hardingstone and Great Houghton.

There were also some great running performances in particular Imogen Norton who was first lady home in a time of 1:26:56 and 12<sup>th</sup> overall. In addition, as her club Wotton Road Runners were using the event as their club championship – so her club champion too!

The first runner in was Chris Lamb in a great time of 1:18:37 on a testing course which had many twists and turns as well the odd gradient that tested the heart rate. Second was Greg Spellman from Wellingborough who led for a great proportion of the race and third Hamish Roper all the way down from Dundee Road Runners in times of 1:19:01 and 1:19:48 respectfully.



Chris Lamb (right)  
with Greg Spellman

There was a great reception in Delapre for the finishers as they made their way through a pretty tree lined trail to the finish line. At times the crowd pressing in resembled a climb section of the Tour which although made the run in to the line narrow it really added to the atmosphere as all the runners were cheered in.



Imogen Norton flanked by Olivia Thompson and Barbara Willison

In the park itself there was music from the Sheridan Clinic as well as refreshments from the Teach Africa Tent and Friends of Delapre, Physio, Retail from Tri Running and an efficient baggage process for runners to collect the kit they had left at the start. It felt like a great party atmosphere with most people staying well after they finished.

Back to the racing, second lady in was Olivia Thompson from Northants Tri in 1:32:02 followed Barbara Willison 1:36:13 from Wotton in third.

Overall a very successful first running of the event with great support from local businesses, in particular Image Gym as well the County and Borough councils.

As with all of these things there are lessons to be learned but the planning will now start for 2014 where the event will come back even bigger and better and establish itself as a firm fixture in the Northamptonshire running calendar.